

IOWA DEPARTMENT ON AGING

2011 IOWA ACTS, HOUSE FILE 45 SECTION 20 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT ON AGING?

To develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of long term living and community support services that help individuals maintain health and independence in their homes and communities.

HOUSE FILE 45

What does HF 45 state?

Sec. 20. DEPARTMENT ON AGING — PLAN FOR REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING. The department on aging shall develop a plan for reducing the number of area agencies on aging in the state, to be effective beginning July 1, 2012. The department shall submit the plan to the standing committees on human resources of the senate and house of representatives and the joint appropriations subcommittee on health and human services on or before December 15, 2011.

Can HF 45 be changed or rescinded?

HF 45 was passed by the House, passed by the Senate and signed into law by the Governor and became effective upon enactment on March 7, 2011. It is now part of Iowa Code; therefore, the Department on Aging is mandated to enact and to submit a plan of action no later than December 15, 2011 to the Standing Committees for the reduction of the number of Area Agencies on Aging.

What is the process and is there a timeline?

Iowa Administrative Code 17 Chapter 4 (17 IAC 4) which became effective November 1, 2011 provides process guidance. A brief overview and tentative timeline:

1. **August 16, 2011** - Proposed map for Area Agency on Aging (AAA) redesign submitted to the Iowa Commission on Aging for consideration
2. **October 14, 2011** - Proposed plan for planning and service area (PSA) redesign submitted to the Iowa Commission on Aging for consideration
3. **November 1, 2011** - 17 IAC 4 presented to the Iowa Commission on Aging for approval of emergency filing and notice of intended action
4. **November 17, 2011** - Notice sent to AAA Directors and Board of Director Chairs regarding intent to designate PSAs and AAAs and intent to de-designate PSAs
5. **November 17, 2011** - Notice of intent to designate and de-designate published in a newspaper with statewide publication
6. **November 17, 2011** - Notice of intent to designate and de-designate posted on the IDA website
7. **November 30, 2011** - 17 IAC 4 published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin

8. **December 15, 2011** - IDA redesign plan submitted to Legislative Committees pursuant to House File 45
9. **December 30, 2011** - Public comment due on 17 IAC 4
10. **January 4, 2012** - Written public comment period closed for notice of intent to designate PSAs and AAAs and to de-designate AAAs
11. **January 6, 2012** - Public hearing held for intent to designate planning and service areas and area agencies on aging and to de-designate AAAs
12. **January 9, 2012** - Seek introduction of IDA bill that will remove Iowa Code 231 provision mandating 13 AAAs
13. **January 13, 2012** - Submit comments to Iowa Commission on Aging regarding 17 IAC 4, and seek approval or disapproval to proceed with the next step of the rules process
14. **January 13, 2012** - Iowa Commission on Aging approves or disapproves proposed PSA designation
15. **To be determined** - Develop Request for Application (RFA) to designate AAAs
16. **January 23, 2012** - Issue RFA on targeted small business website
17. **January 26, 2012** - Issue RFA process on state system
18. **March 2, 2012** - Request for Application proposals due
19. **March 3, 2012** - Review team begins evaluation of RFA
20. **March 29, 2012** - Iowa Commission on Aging reviews recommendations regarding RFAs and approves or disapproves the IDA's recommendations for de-designation and designation of AAAs
21. **April 6, 2012** - Mail de-designation letters to AAA to be effective 6-30-12
22. **April 6, 2012** - Issue notice of intent to award and notice of non-intent to award to entities that applied for the RFA
23. **April 16, 2012** - Acceptance of notice of intent due to the IDA
24. **June 30, 2012** – De-designate current AAAs
25. **July 1, 2012** - Designate new PSAs and AAAs

AREA AGENCIES ON AGING & BOARDS	
Do the AAA Board members receive pay?	All AAA's are not-for-profit 501C3s with the exception of the Heritage Area Agency on Aging which operates under the auspices of Kirkwood Community College. These volunteer Board members receive no remuneration.
Will all of them continue to be on the new board or will their numbers be reduced also?	It is unlikely all board members will continue for the following reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is unknown, at this time, which organizations will be the successful bidders in response to the Department's Request for Application (RFA) 2. The successful bidder may align its board differently, although geographical representation will be required.
Will some of the AAA offices closed?	Office locations may be reconsidered and IDA will require reasonable consumer access to an AAA. A variety of options are possible as some areas may have satellite offices and some may house an Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) or co-locate with other human service organizations. On balance, a wide spread closure of offices is not predicted.
Loss of Local Access and Participation	<p>The modernization of Iowa's Aging Network provides an opportunity for greater local access and consumer participation at the local level.</p> <p>The IDA will require a governing board to be engaged at each area agency on aging which is comprised of representation from local advisory councils across the combined planning and service areas (PSA) to provide for community specific feedback. Please note the example below:</p> <pre> graph TD A[Area 1] --> B[Local Advisory Council] A --> C[Local Advisory Council] A --> D[Local Advisory Council] B --> E[Two members of each area Advisory Council] C --> E D --> E E --> F([Governing Board]) </pre>